

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

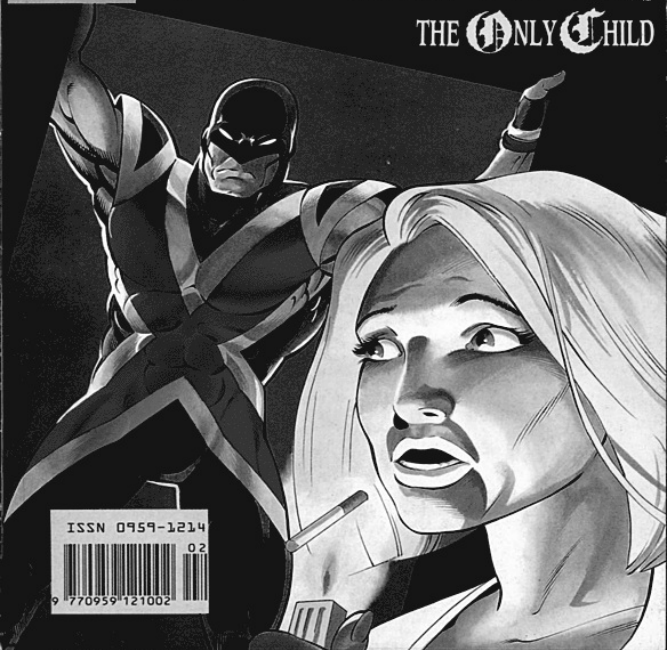
MARVEL[®]
COMICS

FREE
POSTER
INSIDE!

UK95P 8
US \$1.95
CAN \$2.50 (est.)

The NIGHT'S of PENDRAGON

THE ONLY CHILD



ISSN 0959-1214



02

9 770959 121002

'THIS WAS THE BEST OF MAY, THE SMALL BROWN BIRDS
WISELY REITERATING ENDLESSLY
WHAT NO MAN LEARNED YET, IN OR OUT OF SCHOOL.'
Edward Thomas, *SEDGE WARBLERS*

'BUT FAR MORE ANCIENT AND DARK
THE COMBE LOOKS SINCE THEY KILLED THE BADGER THERE,
DUG HIM OUT AND GAVE HIM TO THE HOUNDS,
THAT MOST ANCIENT BRITON OF ENGLISH BEASTS.'
Edward Thomas, *THE COMBE*

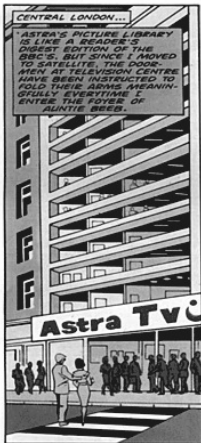
'TENCH HAS BEEN AT GATTON
SCHOOL FOR THREE YEARS
NOW, HOUNDING THE BOYS
TO EXHAUSTED OBLIVION. IT
WAS ONLY RECENTLY I
REALISED WHY I DESPISED
HIS VOICE SO MUCH.

GET UP!
GET ALONG! MOVE
YOUR BLOODY LEGS,
YOU BABIES!

SANTLY! MOVE!
AND YOU, MCCLELLAN,
YOU PUNY LITTLE
TOE-RAG!

'YOU SEE I ONCE HAD THE
MISFORTUNE TO KNOW A MAN
WHO BELLOVED LIKE THAT...



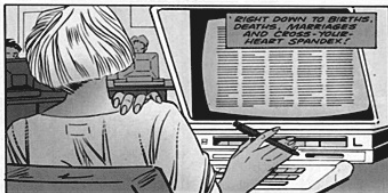


CENTRAL LONDON...

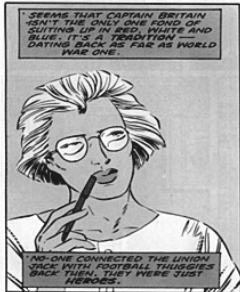
ASTRA'S PICTURE LIBRARY IS LIKE A READER'S DIGEST EDITION OF THE BBC'S, BUT SINCE I MOVED TO SATELLITE, THE DOORMEN AT TELEVISION CENTRE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FOLD THEIR ARMS MEANINGFULLY EVERYTIME I ENTER THE FOYER OF AUNTIE BEEB.



'STILL, ASTRA LIKES THEATRICAL GLAMOUR AND HIGH JINKS, SO I'M IN LUCK. SUPERHEROES ARE MANNA FOR THE TABLOID PRESS. EVERYTHING I NEED IS HERE.



RIGHT DOWN TO BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND CROSS-YOUR-HEART SPANDEX!

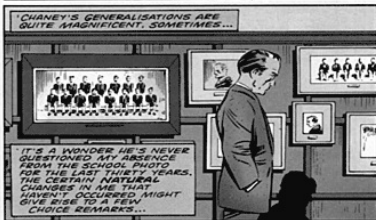


'SEEMS THAT CAPTAIN BRITAIN ISN'T THE ONLY ONE FOND OF SUITING UP IN RED, WHITE AND BLUE. IT'S A TRADITION DATING BACK AS FAR AS WORLD WAR ONE.

NO-ONE CONNECTED THE UNION JACK WITH FOOTBALL THUGSIES BACK THEN. THEY WERE JUST HEROES.



'FOR FIFTY YEARS, THEY PERSONIFIED NATIONAL COURAGE AND PRIDE. BOTH UNION JACKS... THE INVADERS, THE FREEDOM FIVE... EVEN ALBION, WHO HAUNTED THE 14-18 WAR LIKE AN AVENGING SPIRIT-CHAMPION...







CAM,
I'M GLAD
YOU COULD
WAIT.

YOU'VE BEEN
IN WITH CHANEY
FOR HOURS. IT
WAS ABOUT ME.
WASN'T IT?



HE'S AS
CONCERNED
ABOUT YOUR
PROGRESS AS
I AM.

GREAT.

YOU SAID
YOU WERE
Pleased
WITH MY
WORK.



I AM. I AM.
IT'S SOME OF
THE OTHERS
WHO...

YOUR LAST ESSAY WAS GOOD.
VERY GOOD. YOU'D MADE A
NOTE AT THE BOTTOM THAT
YOU WANTED TO ASK ME
SOME QUESTIONS.



THE WHOLE HERO BIT IN THE
GREAT WAR. YOU PASSED
OVER IT IN CLASS. THE
FREEDOM FIVE. UNION JACK,
ALBION... WHY CAN'T WE
LEARN ABOUT THEM?

THERE'S NOT
MUCH TO KNOW.
STATE SECRETS.
IT'S NOT ON THE
CURRICULUM.



BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT,
WASN'T IT? IF I'M DOING
A TOPIC ON WAR SPIRIT,
HOW CAN I LEAVE
IT ALL OUT?

DIDN'T
IT MEAN A
LOT TO PEOPLE
BACK THEN?



OF COURSE. OF COURSE
IT DID.

BUT IT
DOESN'T MEAN
ANYTHING IN
THIS DAY AND
AGE.



NOT
ANYMORE.

'MY GOD, I DON'T LOOK
A DAY OVER TWENTY.'



"THE RAIN CONTINUED INTO TUESDAY,
BUT I BRAVED IT, LEAVING GATTON
FAR BEHIND UNTIL I WAS OVERLOOKING
AN ANCIENT MASS OF TREES THAT THE
BOYS CALL THE COPSE AND WE CALL
"OUT OF BOUNDS";



"IT'S HARDLY CHANGED.
I WAS THIRTY—STILL A
STUDENT TEACHER,
GRUBBING ABOUT IN THE
WOODS FOR HOLLY BLUES
AND PAINTED LADIES.

"EVEN THEN, IT WAS
FORBIDDEN GROUND,
CRACKLING WITH A
PRIMAL POWER THAT
IS UNEASY IN THE
COMPANY OF MAN.



"I'VE HEARD THE POWER
CALLED MANY NAMES.
A LIFEFORCE, THE SPIRIT
OF THE TREES, HERNE
THE HUNTER'S GHOST,
THE CHAMPION FIRE...



"...THE PENDRAGON.



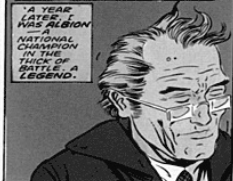
"'CHIEF DRAGON,' THE
CHAMPION OF THE LAND,
A POWER OCCASIONALLY
BESTOWED ON THE LIVING...

"...AND
JUST
OVER A
CENTURY
AGO, ON
ME.



"THEN I HEARD THE NEWS FROM
SARAJEVO, THE ASSASSINATION
OF ARCHDUKE FERDINAND—THE
OUTBREAK OF THE FIRST WORLD
WAR. MY TRANQUIL LIFE WAS
OVER.

"A YEAR
LATER I
WAS ALBION
—A
NATIONAL CHAMPION
IN THE
THICK OF
BATTLE, A
LEGEND.



"THE NEED FOR SUCH
HEROES WAS PASSED
NOW. BUT THE MEMORIES—"

HEY! HEY
THERE!







'THE GHOSTS OF THE CORPSE ARE ALL AROUND US HERE. THE PENDAGON SINGS IN MY BLOOD AND HERNE'S VOICE SCREAMS IN MY HEAD...'

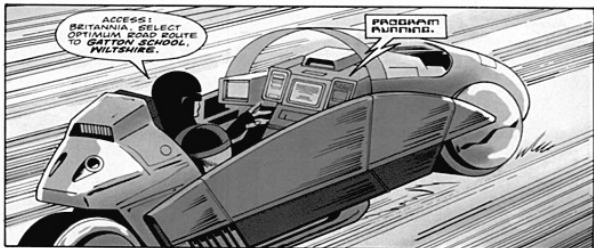




















AH-AH-OOW...

CAPTAIN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAPTAIN!



THAT LAST CRASH WILL HAVE WOKEN THE SCHOOL. DAMMIT! WE HAVE TO ACT FAST.

INTO THE TREELINE. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS... I SAW HIS SHADOW MOVING THAT WAY. PLEASE, CAPTAIN...

WHERE'D HE GO?



AHHH!

WHAT--



GOOD LORD! ANOTHER ONE!

YOU?!



HOW'D YOU GET HERE SO CLOSE BEHIND ME?

I HAD A MAP.

SMART MOVE. IT'S A DEVIL TO FIND FROM THE AIR.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU?



I—OW!—I WAS ATTACKED BY SOMETHING... SOMETHING NOT HUMAN. IT'S HEADING FOR THE WOODS...

STEADY, MAN. YOU'RE HURT.

AN INCISIVE DIAGNOSIS, DOCTOR...



THE CAPTAIN WAS WRONG. IT IS SOMETHING HUMAN. IT'S CAM McCLELLAN. MORE HUMAN THAN HE'S EVER BEEN BEFORE...





